

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the specification, beginning on Pg. 4, Line 12, as follows:

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating the spectrum allocation in a CATV system in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a prior art IP over MPEG system.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a CATV system with a master headend 301 and multiple remote headends using an IP over MPEG system with channel tracking in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of a CATV system using an IP over MPEG system with channel tracking in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 5 is a signal flow diagram illustrating the message protocol to implement channel tracking in accordance with present invention.

Figure 6A illustrates the signal flow for making Channel Resource Request upon channel change in accordance with present invention.

Figure 6B illustrates the signal flow for receiving the Channel Resource Confirmation message upon channel change in accordance with present invention.

Figure 6C illustrates the signal flow for receiving a digital TV program with Internet access by IP packets carried over MPEG multiplexed video.

Figure 6D illustrates the signal flow for receiving a digital TV program with Internet access by IP packets carried in the out-of-band downstream signal path.

Figure 7 illustrates the format of a Channel Change Request message.

Figure 8 illustrates the format of a Channel Resource Confirmation message.

Please amend the “CHANNEL CHANGES” paragraph on Pg. 9 as follows:

In response to a channel change by the viewer, the settop 524 sends a channel change request 533 to the out-of-band controller 525 at the headend, which forwards 534 the out-of-band channel change request to the channel resource manager 511. ~~The format of a channel change request is shown in table 1. Figure 7 illustrates the format of the Channel Change Request message.~~ The channel resource manager 511 determines whether the requested channel (6 MHz multiplexed MPEG digital video channel) can support another IP user. If so, the channel resource manager assigns a packet ID (PID) to the new user (settop 524). If no PID is available on the requested channel, the ~~channel resource~~ ~~resource~~ manager assigns a default PID of “FFFF” which indicates a “busy” condition. The channel resource manager 511 updates the resource table 538 in the IP gateway 513.

Please amend the “CHANNEL TRACKING” paragraph on Pg. 9 as follows:

In order to grant a channel change request, the channel resource manager 511 returns a Channel Resource Confirmation message 536 to the out-of-band controller 525, which transmits the Channel Resource Confirmation message to the settop 524 in the out-of-band region of the CATV spectrum. ~~Table 2~~ Figure 8 illustrates the format of the Channel Resource Confirmation message. The settop box responds to the Channel Resource Confirmation message 535 by selecting the new PID as the new source of IP packets over MPEG data packets. If the new PID is FFFF, then the requested channel was “busy”. In

response to a busy signal, the settop box 524 uses the out-of-band channel to receive IP data packets using DVB ~~Multi-Protocol~~ Multi-Protocol Encapsulation.